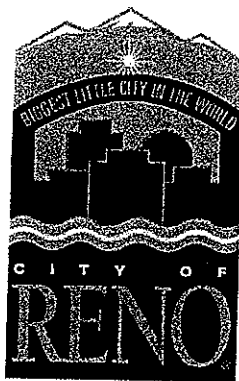


Robert A. Cashell, Sr.
Mayor

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*"The most livable of Nevada cities;
the focus of culture, commerce and
tourism in northern Nevada."*

March 20, 2012

The Honorable W. Craig Fugate, Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate:

On behalf of the City of Reno and the current Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District/Reno Fire Department ("the Department"), we would ask for your assistance with a pressing matter regarding the City's 2010 SAFER grant award. Due to the extraordinary circumstances over which Reno has no control, we are requesting permission to reduce the base staffing levels in the Department midway through the 2010 SAFER performance period.

The situation that the Department is currently facing is unique and extremely challenging. After 12 years of consolidated fire operations, which resulted in a cost savings of more than \$45 million for Washoe County and Reno, the Washoe County Commission acting in its capacity as the Department's Board of Fire Commissioners voted on March 12 to dissolve this agreement and has officially notified the City of Reno that it wishes to withdraw from the consolidated Department, effective July 1, 2012. The deconsolidation will directly impact Reno's firefighting staffing levels for City fiscal years 2012-2014.

The SAFER award that the City received in May 2011 was crucial for the Department's operations during the City's fiscal year 2011, and our goal is to keep the FY 2010 SAFER award. The 10 firefighting positions funded through the grant allowed us to keep key fire stations open and citizens protected. Maintaining as many firefighting staff as possible is the utmost priority for the Department, since adequate staffing is essential for firefighter safety and public safety.

We are fully aware of, and respect, the absolute prohibition against firefighter layoffs during the two-year SAFER performance period. At this time, it is not clear how the deconsolidation with the County will affect Reno's staffing levels. Our hope is that the County will absorb 60 of the 130 firefighting positions it will need for its new fire service from existing personnel, but if they do not, Reno will have no ability to balance its Fire Department budget without reducing staff.

The Honorable W. Craig Fugate
March 20, 2012
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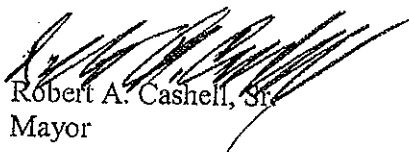
By way of background, the City of Reno does not favor deconsolidation. In the last four months, our service area has experienced two Incident Level 1 catastrophic wildland/urban interface fires (Caughlin and Washoe Drive) which graphically demonstrated that swift and effective emergency fire response is best managed in a centralized, coordinated fashion.

In addition, the decision to deconsolidate is certain to add to the extraordinary financial difficulties that the City has experienced during this recession. Since the City's fiscal year 2008, City revenues have declined by over 20 percent and overall City staffing levels have dropped by 35 percent. We see little improvement on the horizon. The circumstances are so dire that our public safety agencies have not been immune to reduction. Fifty-five firefighters have been laid off between 2008 and July 2010.


Finally, we also want to emphasize the urgent need for the 24 positions that would be funded through the City's pending 2011 SAFER application. The City submitted this application in good faith four days before the Washoe County Board voted to pursue its stand-alone fire service. We remain committed to our justification for the request and will uphold all the terms and conditions of the 2011 SAFER program throughout the performance period.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important request, and we would be pleased to offer you any additional information about the matter at your convenience. We are disappointed that you will be travelling next week and unavailable to meet us while we are in Washington, DC, but we look forward to discussing this urgent request with members of your staff.

Sincerely,


Robert A. Cashell, Sr.
Mayor

Sincerely,


Andrew K. Clinger
City Manager

cc: The Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader, United States Senate
The Honorable Dean Heller, United States Senate
The Honorable Mark Amodei, U.S. House of Representatives